159. Social disabilities of Ezhavas and other backward classes.

Mr. N. R. Krishnan (Member, Nominated), while feeling thankful to Government for allowing Ezhavas representation in the Legislative Council and for the removal of several of their disabilities, submitted that their new grievance was that the law courts had been disposing of some pollution cases in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the Ezhava and other communities. He was of opinion that pollution cases like the Kadakavur temple case should be disposed of by a Full Bench of the High Court. The Member then explained how the order prohibiting the Ezhavas from conducting a procession in honor of their religious head through the public road at Alleppey had resulted in a grievance to the community as a whole and prayed for its immediate annulment. Lastly, he spoke against the practice of notice-boards being put up near temples prohibiting the entry of Ezhavas and other classes within certain prescribed limits and submitted that such prohibitions affected their sense of self-respect and were a source of considerable inconvenience in other ways.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

160. The removal of all kinds of racial bar in the matter of admission to the public service.

Rev. Fr. John (Member, T. I. C., Parur) prefaced his representation with the observation that the people believed that a favourable reply would be given to the deputation of the Civic Rights League that waited on the Dewan. But they were disappointed and he had again to make his representation. The reply given at the last session of the Assembly was consoling to them and that was the reason for their not bringing the subject at this year's session. Many people were afraid that the answer given to the deputation would lead to some untoward results. If no such thing happened, it was due to the loyalty of the people and the good sense and influence of their leaders. It was thought that the agitation was set up for securing more Government appointments. But the Member urged that the people did recognise that agriculture and trade were better than Government appointments as could be easily seen from the large number of companies floated on account of private enterprise. The object of the agitation was, therefore, not to obtain Government appointments but to assert their rights as citizens and secure them, so as to ensure effective cooperation of all people in the State for the advancement of the country. Their right briefly was that they should have admission into the Revenue Department, and if the fact that the management of Devaswoms was now vested in the Revenue Department was a bar to the right being granted to them, then the separation of the two departments should be effected. The Revenue Department was the most important in the State and if the members of the Christian and other communities who constituted 26 lakhs of His Highness' subjects were not given admission into that Department, it was highly disappointing. The assertion of their rights was the natural result of the liberal policy of educational advancement for which the Government themselves were responsible. The Member added that his object in repeating the subject so strongly and earnestly was to warn Government against any untoward thing happening which the leaders might not be able to prevent. There might be difficulties for Government to bring about changes in the present state of affairs which had been in existence for quite a long time. But a bold step should be taken to remove all difficulties.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

161. Separation of Devaswoms from the Revenue Department.

Mr. K. K. Thomas B. A. & B. L. (Member, Nominated) said that the question of separation of Devaswoms from the Revenue Department was only a matter of detail in the administration of a Department and not a large question of general policy going to the vital principles of the State. Though the matter had been forcibly agitated for a period of 40 years, no satisfactory solution of the problem had been arrived at. It was admitted on all hands that the administration of Devaswoms at present was far from satisfactory. His friend, Mr. Thrivikramar Vasudevar, who represented the Jenmies on the Legislative Council, had described on the previous day how ill-managed those pious institutions were and urged the necessity for their separation.

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